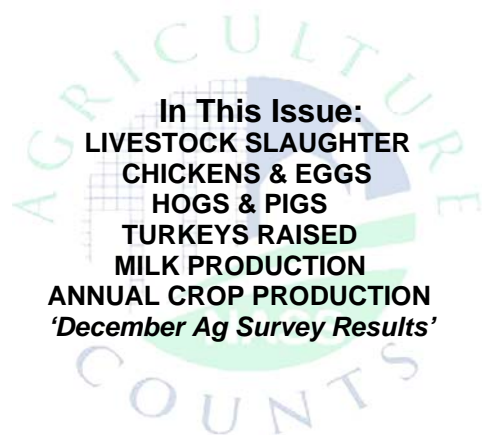


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LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

November Red Meat Production

West Virginia -- Commercial red meat production during November 2005 totaled 900,000 pounds. This was 1 percent below November 2004 production but up 4 percent from the October 2005 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 1.3 million pounds live weight, up 8 percent from November 2004. Cattle slaughter totaled 1,400 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 942 pounds, was down 5 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 296,000 pounds live weight, up 14 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,100 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 277 pounds, was down 2 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States -- Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in November, up 5 percent from the 3.77 billion pounds produced in November 2004.

Beef production, at 2.07 billion pounds, was 7 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.67 million head, up 5 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was up 16 pounds from the previous year, at 1,284 pounds.

Veal production totaled 12.4 million pounds, 10 percent below November a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 56,300 head, down 17 percent from November 2004. The average live weight was 29 pounds above last year, at 365 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.84 billion pounds, up 2 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.13 million head, 2 percent above November 2004. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.8 million pounds, was down 4 percent from November 2004. Sheep slaughter totaled 224,500 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 5 pounds from November a year ago.

January to November 2005 commercial red meat production was 41.8 billion pounds, up 1 percent from 2004. Accumulated beef production was up 1 percent from last year, veal was down 6 percent, pork was up 1 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

November 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

November 2005 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

November Egg Production Up 1 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.54 billion during November 2005, up 1 percent from last year. Production included 6.48 billion table eggs, and 1.06 billion hatching eggs, of which 996 million were broiler-type and 60 million were egg-type. The number of layers during November 2005 averaged 347 million, up 1 percent from a year earlier. November egg production per 100 layers was 2,175 eggs, up slightly from November 2004.

All layers in the U.S. on December 1, 2005, totaled 348 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 348 million layers consisted of 291 million layers producing table-type eggs, 54.9 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.61 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on December 1, 2005, averaged 72.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from December 1, 2004.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Down 15 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during November 2005 totaled 32.8 million, down 15 percent from November 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 34.7 million on December 1, 2005, down 3 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 181,000 during November 2005, down 20 percent from November 2004.

Broiler-Type Chicks Hatched Up 2 Percent

Broiler-type chicks hatched during November 2005 totaled 747 million, up 2 percent from November 2004. Eggs in incubators totaled 658 million on December 1, 2005, up 2 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.30 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during November 2005, up 2 percent from November 2004.

HOGS & PIGS

West Virginia Hog Inventory

West Virginia -- Inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005, was 8,000 head, down 20 percent from December 1, 2004. Of the 8,000 head, 2,000 were for breeding; unchanged from 2004. The breakdown of the remaining 6,000 market hogs and pigs was as follows: 2,000 head were under 60 pounds; 1,000 were from 60-119 pounds; 1,000 were from 120-179 pounds; and 2,000 were 180 pounds and over.

Annual pig crop totaled 14,700 head, 19 percent below the 2004 pig crop. Sows farrowing from December 2004 through November 2005 totaled 2,100 head, down 9 percent from the previous year. Pigs per litter averaged 7.00 pigs, down 12 percent from 2004, at 7.91 pigs.

United States -- Inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. **Market hog**

inventory, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, up from 38 percent from last year.

Revisions - All inventory and pig crop estimates for March 2004 through September 2005 were reviewed using final pig crop, official slaughter, death loss, and updated import and export data. Based on the findings of this review, small adjustments of less than one-half of one percent were made to the June 2005 total inventory, September 2005 total inventory and to the March-May 2005 pig crop.

TURKEYS RAISED

West Virginia Turkeys Raised

West Virginia -- Turkeys raised in West Virginia during 2005 totaled 2.4 million birds, down 25 percent from 2004. Growers' intentions for 2006 are to raise 2.8 million birds, an increase of 17 percent.

United States -- Turkeys raised in the United States during 2005 totaled 256 million birds, down 3 percent from the 263 million raised in 2004.

Minnesota ranked first in the number raised with 44.5 million, followed by North Carolina with 36.0 million, Arkansas with 29.0 million, Virginia with 21.0 million, Missouri with 20.5 million, California with 14.9 million, and Indiana with 13.4 million. These States accounted

for 70 percent of the turkeys produced in the United States during 2005.

Turkey Growers Plan a 4 Percent Increase in 2006

Turkey growers in 23 States intend to increase the number of birds raised by 4 percent in 2006. These states produced over 99% of the turkeys raised in 2005. Intentions for the top seven producing States compared with 2005 are as follows: Minnesota down 2 percent, North Carolina up 6 percent, Arkansas up 7 percent, Virginia up 7 percent, Missouri up 5 percent, California down 1 percent, and Indiana up 4 percent.

The number of turkeys actually raised in 2006 may vary from growers' intentions shown in this report depending on feed costs, supply of hatching eggs, cost of poults, and prices growers receive for turkeys during the next few months.

MILK PRODUCTION

Fourth Quarter Milk Production

West Virginia -- Milk production in West Virginia totaled 49 million pounds during the October - December quarter of 2005. This was up 1 million pounds from the same quarter last year and from the July - September 2005 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 13,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.

United States -- Milk production in the U.S. during the October - December quarter totaled 43.6 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 31,000 head more than the same period last year.

ANNUAL CROP PRODUCTION 'December Ag Survey Results'

West Virginia 2005 Annual Crop Production, Winter Wheat Seedings, Grain and Hay Stocks

West Virginia -- Wheat planted acres totaled 7,000 in 2005, down 1,000 acres from 2004. Area harvested for grain totaled 5,000 acres, the same as 2004. The average yield for 2005 was estimated to be 60.0 bushels per acre. This was up 8 bushels from 2004. Production was estimated at 300,000 bushels, up 15 percent or 40,000 bushels from 2004.

Winter wheat seedings for the 2006 crop are estimated at 8,000 acres, up 1,000 acres, or 14 percent, from 2005.

All hay harvested area in 2005 totaled 575,000 acres, the same as 2004. The average yield in 2005 was 1.86 tons per acre compared to 1.85 tons per acre in 2004. Production totaled 1.070 million tons, up from 1.062 million tons in 2004. **December On Farm Hay Stocks** was 984,000 tons, down 46,000 tons from 2004.

Alfalfa hay area harvested totaled 35,000 acres in 2005, down 10,000 acres from 2004. Yields in 2005 averaged 2.8 tons per acre, up 0.4 of a ton from 2004. Production totaled 98,000 tons, down 10,000 from 2004. New seedings of alfalfa in 2005 are estimated at 7,000 acres, up 4,000 acres from 2004 seedings.

All other hay area harvested totaled 540,000 acres in 2005, up 10,000 acres from 2004. Yields averaged 1.8 tons per acre, the same as 2004. Production totaled 972,000 tons, up 18,000 tons from 2004.

Area planted to **corn** for all purposes in 2005 totaled 45,000 acres, down 3,000 acres from 2004. Harvested area **for grain** totaled 28,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 2004. The average yield of 109.0 bushels per acre was down 22 bushels from 2004. Production was 3.1 million bushels, down 18 percent from 2004.

Corn for silage area harvested was 16,000 acres in 2005, down 2,000 acres from 2004. Yields averaged 15.5 tons per acre which was 1.5 tons below the 2004 yield. Silage production was estimated at 248,000 tons, down 19 percent from 2004.

Burley tobacco area harvested totaled 400 acres in 2005, down 900 acres from 2004. Yields averaged 1,700 pounds per acre, up 400 pounds from 2004. Production for burley tobacco totaled 680,000 pounds in 2005, down 60 percent from 2004.

Area planted to **soybeans** totaled 18,000 acres, down 1,000 acres from 2004. Area harvested for beans totaled 17,000 acres, also down 1,000 acres from 2004. The yield for soybeans in 2005 averaged 35.0 bushels per acre, down 11 bushels from 2004. Production was estimated at 595,000 bushels, down 28 percent from 2004.

The total area planted to **principal crops** in West Virginia totaled 645,000 acres in 2005, down 6,000 acres from 2004. Area harvested totaled 641,000 acres, down 5,000 acres from 2004. Principal crops include acres planted to corn, soybeans and wheat, and acres harvested for hay and tobacco.

United States with previous year comparisons

- All wheat production - 2.10 billion bushels, down 2%
- Winter wheat production - 1.5 billion bushels, same as 2004.

- 2006 winter wheat seedings - 41.4 million acres, up 2% from 2005.
- 2005 alfalfa seedings - 3.3 million acres, up 18% from 2004.
- Alfalfa hay production - 75.8 million tons, up slightly.
- All other hay production - 74.8 million tons, down 10%.
- All hay production - 150.6 million tons, down 5 percent.
- Corn planted for all purposes area - 81.8 million acres, up 1%.
- Corn for grain harvested area - 75.1 million acres, up 2%.
- Corn for grain production - 11.1 billion bushels, down 6%.
- Corn for grain yield - 147.9 bushels per acre, down 12.5 bushels.
- Corn for silage harvested area - 5.9 million acres, down 3%.
- Corn for silage production - 106.3 million tons, down 1%.
- Corn for silage yield - 18.0 tons per acre, up .4 tons.
- Soybeans production - 3.09 billion bushels, down 1%.
- All tobacco production - 639.7 million pounds, down 27%.
- Oats production - 114.9 million bushels, down 1%.
- Area planted to principal crops - 317.7 million acres, down 1%.
- Area harvested for principal crops - 303.6 million acres, down slightly.

**United States stocks totals as of
December 1, 2005**

- Hay stocks on-farm - 105.1 million tons, down 8%.
- Corn stocks on-farm - 6.33 billion bushels, up 3%.
- Corn stocks off-farm - 3.49 billion bushels, up 5%.
- All wheat stocks on-farm - 513 million bushels, down 3%.
- All wheat stocks off-farm - 917 million bushels, up 2%.
- Soybean stocks on-farm - 1.35 billion bushels, up 3%.
- Soybean stocks off-farm - 1.16 billion bushels, up 15%.
- Oats stocks on-farm - 60.1 million bushels, down slightly.
- Oats stocks off-farm - 35.6 million bushels, down 20%.

Next Issue:

**Livestock Slaughter
January Cattle
January Sheep & Goats
Annual Chickens & Eggs
Crop Values
Farms & Land in Farms**

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